private agency. Their interests would be adequately safeguarded in the event of privatisation.

(c) Transmission & Distribution losses and financial losses of DESU during the last three years are as follows:

Year	T&D losses (Million Units)/(%)	Financial losses (Rs. in crores)
1990-91 (Actual)	1845 (22.33%)	208.82
1991-92 (Provisional)	2069 (22.56%)	107.15
1992-93 (Provisional)	2176 (21.80%)	243.76

(d; The piesent taritf of DESU, particularly tor domestic category for consumption upto first 200 Units is not economical and is the lowest as compared to the rates in Calcutta and Bombay.

(e) DESU has an installed capacity of 599.1 MW. Against the target of 980 million units during April—July 1993, the actual generation by DESU is 756 million units, which is 77.1% of the target.

(f) The requisite details are given in part (c) of the Question above.

(g) The workers of DESU will be taken into confidence in respect of their service interests before the plans for privatisation of DESU distribution system are finalised.

Wealth Tax on Farm Houses in Punjab

*397. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farm houses in Punjab have been included in the wealth tax;

(b) if so, what is the rationale behind this policy; and

(c) by when such policy will be revoked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MUR-THY): (*a*) A residential house, including a farm house, situated within 25 kilometers from the local limits of any municipality or a cantonment board is liable to wealth-tax if the cumulative value of specified assets including house properties and farm houses of the above category ex-Leeds Rs. 15 lacs. If certain farm houses in Punjab fall within this category then they are liable to wealth tax.

However, by an amendment effected in the Wealth Tax Act relevant from assessment year 1994-95 exemption has been provided to individuals and HUFs, in respect of one house or part of a house owned by them,

(b) The provision is based on the re-commendasion of the Chelliah Committee which suggested that wealth-tax should be levied on certain specified assets alone and not on all assets. Among the items re-commended for levy of wealth tax were guest houses and residential houses including farm houses in the vicinity of towns. This recommendation was accepted by the Government.

(c) There is no proposal at present to revoke this provision.

बैंकों की घाटे में चल रही शाखाओं को बंद किया जाना

*398. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
श्री सुरेश कलमाड़ी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों को घाटे में चल रही अपनी शाखाओं को बंद करने की अनुमति प्रदान कर दी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या विभिन्न बैंकों ने घाटे में चल रही अपनी शाखाओं की पहचान कर ली गई है ;

(ग) देश में बैंकों की घाटे में चल रही शाखाओं की कुल अनुमानित संख्या कितनी है और उनमें कार्यरत कर्मचारियों की संख्या कितनी है ;

(घ) क्या उन शाखाओं को बंद करने का निर्णय लिये जाने से पूर्व स्थानीय उपभोक्ताओं को होने वाली कठिनाइयों का अनुमान लगाया गया है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो सरकार उन शाखाओं के उपभोक्ताओं को बैंकिंग सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने हेतु क्या वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था करने का विचार रखती है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद) : (क) से (ङ) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ग्रामीण और अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों में घाटे पर चल रही शाखाओं को बन्द करने की अनुमति नहीं देता है। बैंकों को कहा गया है कि वे शहरी/महानगरीय केन्द्रों में जो सामान्य तौर पर पर्याप्त बैंकों वाले क्षेत्र हैं, घाटे में चल रही शाखाओं के बन्द करने के लिए अपने-अपने प्रस्तावों को प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं और भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ऐसे प्रस्तावों सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार करेगा। बैंकों ने घाटे पर चल रहीं अपनी शाखा पहचान कर ली है। वे भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक को प्रत्येक का वर्ष के मार्च अन्त में एक पुनरीक्षा प्रस्तुत करते हैं जिसमें घाटे से संबंधित कारणों और सम्बद्ध शाखाओं को मुनाफे पर लाने के हेतु किए जा रहे उपायों को भी दर्शाया जाता है। मार्च 1992 के अन्त की स्थिति के अनुसार, सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों की कुल घाटे में चेल रही 9421 शाखाएं और गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र की 486 शाखाएं हैं। घाटे में चल रही इन शाखाओं में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों से संबंधित सूचना भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के पास उपलब्ध नहीं है।

Interest on UTI Payments

*399. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUT-T1NAN:

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUM-BI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Unit Trust of India does not make payment of any interest on delayed payment caused due to the loss of cheques/drafts in transit;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the Unit Trust of India takes unduly long time, varying from three months to one year, in settling the cases after proper affidavits etc. are filed by the investors and, if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by the Unit Trust of India to minimise the delay in the disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): fa) and (b) The Unit Trust of India (UTI) has reported that it pays compensation on delayed payment of repurchase/maturity proceeds in case the delay is on account of its negligence. In case of delayed payments on account of cheques/drafts lost in transit, interest is paid on a case by case basis after duly verifying the claims of investors.

(c) UTI has reported that the payments of repurchase and redemption proceeds are made within a period of 3-4 weeks